

a1 wetting the surface of the wood substrate with a wetting solution prior to adhering the adhesive.

17 (amended). A method of finishing a teak surface for exterior exposure of the teak, said method comprising the steps of:

92 (a) providing a finishing film material in the form of a sheet, said finishing material comprising:

- (i) a flexible aliphatic polyurethane sheet material having a first major surface and a second major surface;
- (ii) an acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive layer covering at least a portion of the first major surface of the sheet material;

(b) providing a teak substrate having a surface;

(c) coating the surface of the teak substrate with a liquid coating composition comprising a polymer or polymer precursor dispersed or dissolved in a liquid to form a coated surface;

(d) wetting the coated surface of the teak substrate with a wetting solution; and

(e) adhering the adhesive layer of the finishing film material to the coated surface of the teak substrate by placing the adhesive layer of the finishing film in contact with the coated surface of the teak substrate and optionally applying pressure and/or heat to at least a portion of the finishing film.

Remarks

The specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

Applicants' cannot agree with the position taken in the Office Action. The specification clearly allows for steps (c) and (d) to be used in combination with one another. For example, the Examiners' attention is directed to Example 1 of the specification. Example 1 states at page 12, lines 1-3 that "Samples of wood substrate were first varnished with 4 layers of varnish (commercially available under the trade designation "Z SPAR CAPTAIN'S VARNISH" from Kop-Coat Inc., Rockaway NJ)." Example 1 further states at page 12, lines 21 that "The finishing film was applied to the substrate using a wet application method." Therefore, Example 1 of the specification clearly provides support for the method recited in claim 17 including both coating step (c) and wetting step (d).